

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to keep a check on these operators?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (c) As per Cellular Mobile Service licence, provision of mobile service within 10 Km. of the international border and as per Unified Access Service licence, setting up of Base Trans-receive Station (BTS) within 10 km. of the international border requires clearance from the Government. At some places, violations have come to the notice and the Department of Telecommunications has instructed the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) to carry out periodic audit to see the compliance to the licence conditions by all the mobile service providers in this respect.

Plan to cover Jharkhand by mobile telephone connectivity

906. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the State of Jharkhand which is highly naxal affected is not fully covered by telecommunications;

(b) whether Government have any plan to cover the entire Jharkhand State at least by mobile telephone connectivity; and

(c) if so, by which year the entire Jharkhand State would be covered by telecommunications network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A scheme is being launched by the Government to support infrastructure for providing services in rural and remote areas of the country including Jharkhand. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL), the Government owned telecom operator has made plans to cover all the villages having population greater than 1000 with its mobile service progressively

during next three financial years depending upon techno-commercial viability.

Telephone facilities in Bihar

†907. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the time schedule of the target of providing landline telephone facility to all the panchayats and revenue villages of Bihar;

(b) the number of villages covered by the landline telephone facilities in the State so far; and

(c) the number of applications registered in waiting list to get the telephone connections alongwith the time period to dispose off such wait-listed applicants, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has entered into an agreement with Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in November, 2004 for provision of Village Public Telephones (VPTs) in remaining 66,822 unconnected villages in the country. This excludes villages having population less than 100, lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc. Out of these, 36,014 villages have already been provided with VPTs by BSNL as on 31st October, 2006. The remaining 30,808 villages will be provided VPTs progressively by November, 2007.

(b) 8,399 villages in the state of Bihar have so far been provided with VPTs through landline.

(c) District-wise list of 87,864 number of wait-listed applicants registered in waiting list (as on 31.10.2006) to get the telephone connections in Bihar is given in the Statement (See below). The waiting list in all the districts is likely to be cleared progressively by December, 2007 subject to availability of equipments.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.